

Computer Engineering Majors (CompE)
 Electrical Engineering Majors (EE)
 PR-ENGIN Students planning to be CompE or EE Majors
 Students in other majors planning on switching to CompE or EE

Registration Notes for Fall 2021

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Summary of Steps to Preregister for Spring 2022 classes (see next page for details)

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- Download a Course Selection Form and Curriculum Worksheet (go to ECE Forms & Documents)
- Schedule an advising appointment (look for email from your advisor with link to calendar)
- Review your ARR and fill out the Course Selection Form and Curriculum Worksheet
- Meet with your advisor (through Friday, November 19)
- Enroll in classes once your Enrollment Appointment begins (Mon, November 1, or later)

Contact Information

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Useful Webpages

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Forms & Documents (ECE): <http://ece.umass.edu/undergraduate-students/forms-documents>

[ECE Override Form \(Google Form\)](#)

Academics & Advising (ECE): <https://ece.umass.edu/undergraduate-students/academics-advising>

Engineering Forms & Regulations (CoE):

<https://engineering.umass.edu/current-students/undergraduate-advising/forms-petitions>

RAC Holds

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Everyone has a “service indicator (code-RAC)” on their SPIRE accounts, which prevents enrollment and which can be removed only by meeting with an advisor.

Other Holds

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If you have any other holds on your SPIRE account, e.g., 10- or 12-semester hold, Probation hold, or Academic Warning hold, contact Prof. Leonard. He will need to write an Advising Note and alert the Dean to it. For the 10- or 12-semester hold, you will need to fill out a SAPA form and submit it to the Office of Student Affairs. (A fillable version is located on the ECE website under [Forms & Documents.](#))

Registration Process (for CompE, EE, and upperclass PR-ENGIN majors)

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Step 1. October 2021: Getting Started. Go to [Forms & Documents](#) on the ECE website to download your registration paperwork (a fillable Curriculum Worksheet and a fillable Course Selection Form). You also need to sign up for an appointment with your faculty advisor using UMass Apps. Your advisor should either send you a link for scheduling an appointment or provide an alternative format for meeting remotely. If you do not receive an email from your advisor, contact Ms. Barbara Hastings for assistance.

Step 2. Getting ready for your Advising Appointment. Review your SPIRE (unofficial) transcript and write each of the grades from your transcript in the appropriate box on your (fillable) EE or CompE Curriculum Worksheet. Enter a grade of “TR” or “AP” for all transfer or Advanced Placement courses that are listed as being satisfied on your Academic Requirements Report (ARR). For courses you are taking THIS semester, enter your best guess or a range of possible grades, e.g., “B?” or “A-/B+”. Review your ARR online, but please do not print out the report. Fill out the Course Selection Form as well, including a draft of your academic plan for next semester, and “sign” the form by typing your name into the appropriate field.

Step 3. Through November 19, 2021: Meeting with your Advisor. Before your meeting, email both filled-out documents (a Curriculum Worksheet and a Course Selection Form) to your advisor, still as fillable forms. (And choose meaningful filenames, e.g., by including your name and “Fa21”, so that yours files are identifiable and unique.) You and your advisor will finalize your academic plan for Spring 2022, and your advisor will sign the Course Selection Form then forward the form to Ms. Barbara Hastings. If you need to change the agreed upon academic plan later (e.g., because you failed to meet a minimum grade requirement in one of your classes this semester), you must first consult with your advisor. Also, if you go to your meeting unprepared, don't be surprised if your advisor asks you to reschedule the appointment.

Step 4. After your SPIRE Access Period Begins. Sign up for Spring 2022 classes beginning on the date and time of your Enrollment Appointment, as shown on your Student Center page on SPIRE.

Registration Process (for first-year PR-ENGIN majors)

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Look for an email from Prof. Leonard in November, inviting you to a group advising session.

Filling out PDFs

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Download the fillable versions of the Curriculum Worksheet and Course Selection Form. If possible, use Adobe Acrobat to fill them out, so that you can send the files to your advisor still as fillable forms. If you do not have access to Adobe Acrobat, use PDFescape, which will allow you to fill and save your documents:

<https://www.pdfescape.com>

Academic Requirements Report (ARR)

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This report is used to help with graduation clearance. You should check your Academic Requirements Report (ARR) on SPIRE and contact Prof. Leonard if there are any errors or omissions, particularly regarding transfer credits, AP credits, elective courses, and GenEd courses. (You do NOT need to print your ARR.)

Admission to the Major

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To be admitted to the CompE or EE major, a student must complete, with a grade of C or better, the following seven courses: MATH 131 and MATH 132; ECE 122; ENGIN 100 or 110 or 111 or 112 or 113 or 114 or 197E; ENGLWRIT 112; and PHYSICS 151 and PHYSICS 152. Further, good standing is required, and your term GPA for the last “regular” term (fall or spring) must be 2.00 or above. NOTE: A grade of C– or below is not sufficient, and the course should be retaken. (Contact Prof. Leonard to discuss any exceptions to these requirements, for instance, if you have taken COMPSCI 121 instead of ECE 122. Contact Prof. Leonard also if you are not sure exactly when you should repeat a course.)

Curriculum Planning

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Advisors offer assistance, but they do not plan the student’s course of study. The Curriculum Worksheets are only guides as not all required courses are offered every semester. *Please inform Prof. Leonard now about any problems that arise from anticipated course offerings.* Electronic copies of the Curriculum Worksheets are on the ECE website under [Forms & Documents](#).

Pass/Fail Option

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The deadline for choosing the Pass/Fail option is midnight on Thursday, October 28. Use SPIRE to select Pass/Fail, but do NOT wait until the deadline, just in case. If you cannot get this to work in SPIRE, then you may use an electronic form, Course Change Request, available on the ECE [Forms & Documents](#) page.

You may choose only one course to be Pass/Fail. Courses that are mandatory Pass/Fail don’t count.

You may NOT use “P” to fulfill any major or University requirements.

If you fail the course, an “F” will appear on your transcript, and the grade will affect your GPA. However, if you pass with at least a D, and if the letter grade would lower your overall GPA, then “P” will appear on your transcript, and the grade will NOT be used to compute your GPA.

You may revoke the Pass/Fail option at any time before your transcript is finalized, usually about 3 months after graduation.

Withdrawing from a Class

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You may withdraw from a class for any reason before midnight on Thursday, October 28. In other words, you do NOT need anyone’s permission to withdraw from a class. However, make sure that you will still have 12 credits after withdrawing. A “W” will appear on your transcript, but it will not affect your GPA, and it does not count as having been enrolled. (You are allowed two enrollments; a third requires special permission.)

Use SPIRE to withdraw from a class. Note that the procedure is slightly different after the Add/Drop period. That is, in SPIRE, go to *Enrollment >> Drop Classes - W/DR Grade*. If you cannot get this to work on SPIRE, then you may use fillable form, Course Change Request, available on the [Forms & Documents](#) page.

If you need 1 or 2 credits to reach full-time status (12 credits), contact Prof. Leonard as soon as possible.

If you withdraw from a class, you will need to take it again as soon as possible, e.g., during the winter.

Academic Discipline

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If you are on Academic Probation, or if you have ever been on the Suspension list or the Dismissal list, then withdrawing from a class might be necessary to avoid further Academic Discipline. Specifically, even if you choose Pass/Fail for a class, an F will affect your GPA. Contact Prof. Leonard for advice as soon as possible.

Repeating Classes with a D, D+, or C–

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You may choose to retake any class that you passed but earned below C. You will learn the material better, be better prepared for future classes, and also earn a grade replacement in your GPA calculation.

ECE 190D, Making Better Decisions by Humans and AI (SB, DU)

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ECE Prof. Hossein Pishro-Nik will be offering a course this winter that fulfills two University graduation requirements, SB (Social/Behavioral Gen Ed) and DU (U.S. Diversity). This course is recommended for all students. There are no prerequisites. Seats are limited, so make a decision soon. Note that winter courses are offered through UWW, so there is a fee for taking the class. The total cost will be around \$2000.

Winter classes (Dec 2021 – Jan 2022)

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This year's winter session is longer than usual (about 5 weeks instead of 25 days), so you might be interested in taking one or two classes. This is extremely useful for staying on track, e.g., if you fail or withdraw from a class this fall. You may also retake classes for which you earn C– or below, in order to improve your preparation for future courses. Here is a partial list of course offerings this winter. Check SPIRE for more listings.

ECE 122, Intro. Programming for ECE	ENGIN 351, Writing in Engineering
ECE 124, Intro. Digital & Computer Systems	
ECE 201, Analytical Tools for ECE	MATH 131, Calculus I
ECE 202, Computational Tools for ECE	MATH 132, Calculus II
ECE 210, Circuits & Electronics I	MATH 233, Multivariate Calculus
ECE 331, Hardware Org. & Digital Design	MATH 235, Linear Algebra
	MATH 331, Differential Equations
ECE 556/656, Intro. Cryptography	
ECE 597MS, Math Tools for Data Science	PHYSICS 151, General Physics I – Mechanics
ECE 603, Probability & Random Processes	PHYSICS 152, General Physics II – E&M

Winter courses cost extra, \$482/credit for UG courses (1xx-4xx) and \$569/credit for graduate courses (500+).

PR-ENGIN majors: Check your Subplan!

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If you have not officially entered a major (BS-CSENG or BS-EE), then you are still PR-ENGIN. This winter, the Office of Student Affairs will review every PR-ENGIN student and determine if they are ready to enter a major. Therefore, now is a great time to check your Academic Requirements and make sure that you have the right subplan. On SPIRE, go to *Main Menu >> Academics >> Academic Requirements*, and scroll down near the bottom. You should see a heading entitled "PR-Engineering". If it is closed, click on the small, green "right arrow" (▶) on the left. In this section, you should see your subplan, e.g., Pre-CSE or Pre-EE. If you do not have a subplan, or if your subplan is wrong, go to [Change of Engineering Track Request](#). (Do NOT use this link to change your major into engineering. For that, go to [Change of Major Request](#).)

CompE/EE Freshmen: Failing MATH 131 and/or PHYSICS 151[\[back\]](#)

To stay on track in engineering, you need to pass both MATH 131 and PHYSICS 151 with C or better. If you fail one or both, then you can take them again over the winter. Alternatively, you can retake them in the spring and take the next course (MATH 132 and/or PHYSICS 152) in Summer 2022. If taking winter and summer classes is not possible, contact Prof. Leonard about creating a new academic plan, e.g., by adding a year and adding a minor in something like Economics. For information about winter courses, either at UMass Amherst or elsewhere, go to pages 8 and 9.

NOTE: For PHYSICS 151, if you complete the lab component with 80% or better, but fail the class or earn below C, then you do not need to repeat the labs when you retake it this winter.

CompE/EE Freshmen: Getting ahead in ECE 122 and/or ECE 124[\[back\]](#)

If you are looking for a way to create space in your Spring 2022 schedule, e.g., to take courses for a minor or second major, then you might consider taking ECE 122 and/or ECE 124 this winter. Contact Prof. Leonard for more information.

CompE/EE Freshmen: COMPSCI 121 or COMPSCI 186 vs. ECE 122[\[back\]](#)

If you have completed COMPSCI 121 with a B or better, or if you have earned AP credit for COMPSCI 121 with a score of 5 on the Computer Science A exam, or if you have passed COMPSCI 186, then you do not need to take ECE 122. However, note that ECE 122 is taught in Python, which is generally useful for EE majors and also useful for CompE majors who will be taking ECE 241 in Fall 2022, so you may choose to take ECE 122 in spite of your COMPSCI 121/186 credit.

If you earn below B in COMPSCI 121, or if you earned 4 or less on the Computer Science A exam, then you will need to take ECE 122. If you strongly prefer Java, then you may instead take COMPSCI 186.

If you are not sure what to do, contact Prof. Leonard.

CompE Sophomores: COMPSCI 187 vs. ECE 241[\[back\]](#)

If you have completed COMPSCI 187 (Data Structures), then you will need to take a 1-credit independent study (ECE 296B, Beyond Data Structures) in order to fulfill your ECE 241 requirement. ECE 296B is offered every term, though it costs extra in the winter and summer (about \$200). Contact Prof. Leonard for more information.

CompE Sophomores: Failing ECE 241[\[back\]](#)

If you fail ECE 241 this fall, then you should take it again as soon as possible. For instance, you could take ECE 241 next summer, then take an approved Discrete Math class over the summer (so that you can take ECE 371 next fall). See pages 8 and 9 for more information about winter and summer classes. If you cannot afford to take winter or summer classes, then contact Prof. Leonard about other options.

CompE Sophomores: Passing but below C in ECE 241 (D, D+, or C-)

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If you pass ECE 241 this fall, but earn below C, then you will not be allowed to take COMPSCI 250 next spring. Note that COMPSCI 250 (or an approved Discrete Math class) is needed as a prerequisite for ECE 371 (Intro. Security Engineering, required for all CompE majors) and also for ECE 341 (Algorithms for Computer Engineering, a CompE elective).

There are two main options, as described below. Neither is recommended over the other, so you will need to decide which is best for you. For other options, see Prof. Leonard.

1. Take an approved Discrete Math class outside UMass Amherst next summer. This will fulfill your COMPSCI 250 prerequisite for ECE 371 and ECE 341 and also fulfill your graduation requirement, but it will NOT serve as credit for COMPSCI 250. (Only the CS department can review and approve a course as being equivalent to COMPSCI 250.) With this option, you WILL be able to take ECE 371 next fall, but you would NOT be able to take any CS course that requires COMPSCI 250 as a prerequisite. Contact Prof. Leonard for a list of courses that might qualify as a suitable Discrete Math course. (You will need to get the course approved. See page 9 for more information about taking classes outside of UMass Amherst.)
2. Retake ECE 241 next summer or next fall and postpone ECE 371. You will earn a grade replacement in your GPA and improve your understanding of the course material. You can then atake COMPSCI 250 whenever it fits in your schedule. You will likely need to take something over the summer or winter, though you will have flexibility in deciding which course it is and when to take it. You will be allowed to take any CS course that requires COMPSCI 250 as a prerequisite, though you are not guaranteed enrollment. You will NOT be able to take ECE 371 in Fall 2022. Note that ECE 371 might be offered in Summer 2023. If so, you would be able to start your Senior Capstone Project (ECE 415/416) having finished ECE 371, which is highly recommended.

EE Sophomores: Failing MATH 233

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If you fail MATH 233 (Multivariate Calculus) this fall, then you should retake it this winter to stay on track. It is a prerequisite for ECE 244 (Modern Physics and Materials for EE) next spring. See Prof. Leonard for other options.

CompE/EE Sophomores: Failing ECE 201, 202, and/or 210

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If you fail ECE 201 (Analytical Tools for ECE), ECE 202 (Computational Tools for ECE), or ECE 210 (Circuits & Electronics I), then you should take one or two of them this winter. (You may not retake all three.) Contact Prof. Leonard for permission to enroll in these classes.

CompE/EE Sophomores: ECE 201 vs. MATH 235, MATH 331, and ECE 296C

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If you have completed MATH 235 (Linear Algebra) and/or MATH 331 (Differential Equations), then you might consider using MATH 235, MATH 331, and ECE 296C (Complex Numbers) to fulfill your ECE 201 requirement. Note that you need to complete all three classes before you may take ECE 213 (Continuous-Time Signals & Systems) and ECE 214 (Probability & Statistics). For instance, if you have completed only one of these two MATH courses, then you may choose to take the other during the upcoming winter session.

Note that MATH 235 and MATH 331 are also useful for a second major in Computer Science (BS-CS) or Math (BS-MATH), as well as for a Math minor. Contact Prof. Leonard about enrollment in ECE 296C.

CompE/EE Sophomores: Departmental Honors

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The program requirements for departmental honors are:

1. Honors Junior Writing: ENGIN 351H, preferably in the spring;
2. One Honors Colloquium: ECE H371 or ECE H315 (with accompanying ECE 371 or ECE 315); and
3. Honors Thesis or Project: ECE 499Y (Honors Research) in the fall, with ECE 499T (Thesis) or ECE 499P (Project) in the spring.

Note that CompE majors should swap their Life Sciences elective and ENGIN 351 in order to take ENGIN 351H in the spring. Note also that ECE 499Y **and** ECE 499T or ECE 499P satisfy the requirement for **two** CompE or EE Electives.

There are also admission requirements. For more information, contact [Prof. Neal Anderson](#).

CompE/EE Juniors/Seniors: Elective Courses

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For planning purposes, the following ECE electives will be offered during this academic year (Winter 2022 and Spring 2022), but they are NOT listed appropriately on the back of your Curriculum Worksheet.

Winter 2022 (these cost extra)

ECE 331: Hardware Organization & Digital Design ‡
 ECE 556: Intro. to Cryptography
 ECE 597MS: Math Tools for Data Science
 ECE 603: Probability & Random Processes

Spring 2022 (these can change)

ECE 397QC: Intro. Quantum Computing
 ECE 597AM: Applied Machine Learning
 ECE 597DE: Data-Driven Decarbonization of Electricity Networks
 ECE 597LP: Design Principles for Low-Power Embedded Computing Systems
 ECE 597MB: Modeling Embedded Systems
 ECE 597ML: Machine Learning for Engineers

‡ ECE 331 is an EE elective. Usually, it is taken in the fall semester, but some students might want to take it over the winter, if they can afford the time and cost, e.g., in order to take ECE 332, Embedded Systems Lab.

CompE/EE Seniors: Check SPIRE

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Graduating seniors should check their SPIRE Graduation Date and Academic Requirements Report (ARR) to verify that the Expected Graduation is correct and that all degree requirements will be satisfied at the end of the year. Contact Prof. Leonard with any questions or concerns that you might have. Note that some classes will not automatically fulfill your requirements for Electives on SPIRE, e.g., ECE 499Y, ECE 499T, and ECE 499P. Once grades are official in mid-May, your ARR will be updated appropriately and automatically. In other words, as part of the graduation clearance process, your course history will be reviewed on SPIRE and updates to your ARR will be made as needed, even if you don't say anything.

Enrollment Issues / Override Form (ECE)

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Register as soon as your SPIRE Enrollment Appointment begins, especially if you need a specific class or section. If you cannot enroll in an ECE class for some reason, you should fill out an Override Form, which is now online [here](#). In other words, we are not using the fillable PDF form any longer.

Enrolling in COMPSCI classes

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It is not possible to self-enroll in any COMPSCI classes, including COMPCSI 250, unless you are double majoring in BS-CS. Instead, you should fill out an online form. The form changes every semester, but the link/button can be found [here](#). Note that the form will not become available until late November.

Full-time Student Status / Consequences of being Part Time

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Undergraduate students must take a minimum of 12 credits per semester to retain full-time student status. If you fall below this minimum, you are not eligible for campus employment or campus housing, you will risk any financial aid you have been awarded, and you may lose your UMass health coverage; see the appropriate campus office if you have any questions.

Credit Overloads (CoE)

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Undergraduate engineering students may enroll in up to 19 credits without special permission. Once Fall 2021 grades are official, if you have an overall GPA of 3.00 or above, then you may apply for a Credit Overload. For more information, visit the [Engineering Forms & Regulations](#) page, under Academics & Advising for Current Students (CoE website).

Alternative Electives (ECE)

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To find out if you can use a different course as an elective, e.g., your CompE or EE elective, use the Alternative Elective Request form. A fillable version is on the (ECE) [Forms & Documents](#) page.

Transfer Credit

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If you have any problems with transfer credit from another institution, email your name, student ID, and course information (course description and syllabus preferred) to Prof. Do-Hoon Kwon at dhkwon@umass.edu.

Degree Enhancements

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In addition to Departmental Honors, as outlined earlier, there are other degree enhancements that you might be interested in, such as the [Five-Year B.S./M.S. Program](#) and the [Engineering Management Minor](#). Go to [Degree Enhancements](#) for more information.

Winter Classes at UMass (Amherst)

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If you are interested in taking classes at UMass Amherst this winter (or next summer), request an Enrollment Appointment through SPIRE (navigate to *Enrollment > Summer/Wtr/Non-deg Enroll Appt*). Relevant classes offered through University Without Walls (UWW) are listed on page 4 of this document. There is also a wide variety of Gen Ed courses offered over the winter, and all are completely online, so you don't need to be in Amherst to take them.

Note that many courses require permission to enroll, so contact the instructor directly, if needed, and they can contact UWW. (Please do not contact UWW unless you are having problems.) For ECE classes, you may instead contact Prof. Leonard to get permission.

Note also that you will need to pay extra for winter courses. You will be billed through the Bursar's Office. Financial Aid is sometimes available.

Winter Classes Outside of UMass Amherst

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If you are interested in taking a class at any other campus, you must request prior approval from the Registrar's Office for General Education courses and from Prof. Leonard for technical courses (math, science, or engineering). A fillable version of the Prior Approval form is on the ECE web site under [Forms & Documents](#). **DO NOT** enroll in a course until it is approved. The grade(s) you earn elsewhere will NOT affect your UMass Amherst GPA, and you must earn a grade of "C-" or above to earn transfer credit. (In other words, only the credits transfer.)

Send the completed form, still fillable, to Prof. Leonard. You might need to send a PDF or link for the description of the course, so that it can be reviewed. (You will need Adobe Acrobat or [PDFescape](#) to fill out the form and return it still fillable.)

NOTE: If you are repeating a course outside of UMass Amherst that you have failed at UMass Amherst, you will NOT earn a grade replacement, and the F you have earned here will remain averaged into your GPA forever. Thus, it is sometimes better to retake the class at UMass Amherst, even if it is more expensive, in order to earn a grade replacement.

Note also that you are required to fulfill your Gen Ed requirements with 4-credit courses, so 3-credit courses offered elsewhere generally will NOT be approved. Therefore, it's often best to fulfill Gen Ed requirements using courses taken at UMass Amherst over the winter (or summer).

To check for the LATEST version of this document...

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... go to *Registration Notes* on the [Academics & Advising](#) page of the ECE website.